

GENERAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
 } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
No. 6. *Washington, January 14, 1899.*

The following orders are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, January 12, 1899.*

By authority of the President of the United States, dated December 31, 1898, the following-described lands in the vicinity of Dyea, in the Territory of Alaska, are hereby reserved and set apart for future military purposes and proclaimed military reservations, viz:

1. Beginning at a point about two hundred yards north of the dock of the Dyea Klondike Transportation Company; thence northerly along the shore of Lynn Canal, a distance of two miles; thence west one mile; thence south two miles; thence east one mile to the point of beginning.

2. Beginning at a point on the shore line of Lynn Canal just north of where road from Haines Mission turns westerly toward Chilcat; thence southerly along coast line of Lynn Canal, a distance of two miles; thence west one mile; thence northerly two miles; thence east one mile to point of beginning.

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MILES:

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General.



Versailles, O., Jan. 25th 1901

H.C. Olin Esq
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City
N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of 23 Inst. with enclosure duly received, for which accept my thanks.

It reveals the fact that the \$375- of Dec 17th 1896, has been taken from me twice, once by your Board and once by Sheldon Jackson as the accompanying copies of his letters will show.

Of course the Board has my release of June 21st 1898, but this should not prevent the correction of the matter.

My health is not good, and I have had severe (for me) financial loss through misplaced confidence.

With kindest regards

Very Truly Yours

L.M. Stevenson.

January 30th, 1901.

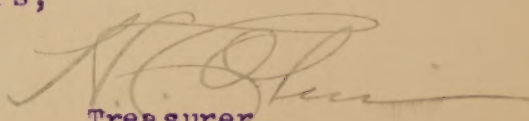
Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Jackson:-

May I trouble you with a little correspondence from Mr. I. M. Stevenson, formerly our missionary at Point Barrow.

My letter of the 23rd, which Mr. Stevenson acknowledges, encloses a statement of his account from the date of his first connection with the Board to its close. The last payment to him was this \$375., referred to in a letter from Mr. Banks, copy of which I enclose herewith. So far as this office is concerned, Mr. Stevenson's claim is not good. Our books show, as per Mr. Banks' letter, that a temporary grant was made to Mr. Stevenson of this \$375., and that it was also paid to his wife, as per the same letter. Our books do not show, however, that the Government ever remitted to us to cover this amount. We, therefore, are the ones who are out, and not Mr. Stevenson. May I ask that you will return all papers with your views upon the case, and also kindly say whether we may expect a remittance from the Government to balance.

Very cordially yours,


Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

Copy of letter, typewritten.

Washington D.C. Dec 2, 1896

Mrs Leander M. Stevenson

Versailles, Darke County, Ohio.

My dear Madam:-

I send you the enclosed letters to know whether it will be possible for you or your children to arrange with the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company. You will notice that your husband not expecting at the time the change from the Home Board to the Government gave an order on Mr Eaton but under the change there is nothing due him from the Home Board. If, however, you are pushed for support they will advance you \$375, which I will become responsible for, to be taken out of your husband's salary next year when it can be paid to him.

I shall be glad to hear from you fully with regard to your matters

Very Respectfully Yours
Sheldon Jackson

Enclosures

Copy of letter, typewritten

Washington D.C. Dec 11th 1896

Mrs. Mary J. Stevenson,
Versailles, Ohio.

My dear Friend:

Yours of December 7th is received. I will write the Home Board to advance you the \$375. Please return to me the letters concerning your husband's Insurance, unless your children will adjust the matter with the Insurance Company.

Very respectfully Yours
Sheldon Jackson.

(COPY)

December 18th, 1896.

Mrs. Mary J. Stevenson,
Versailles, Ohio.

Dear Madam:-

The Board, at its last meeting, granted the request of the United States Government that we advance \$375.00 on the account that will be due your husband (L. M. Stevenson of Point Barrow, Alaska) as an employee of the United States Government from the date his support is assumed by them.

Under date of August 24th, 1896 your husband gave an order to H. Liebes & Co., on this office for the sum of \$122.95 to be charged to his account. This order I have honored, and now beg to enclose check to your order for \$252.05, the balance due on the Board's temporary appropriation.

This, I believe, closes the relations between your husband and this Board.

I presume that you have learned ere this, that Mr. O. D. Eaton, the late Treasurer of this Board, died September 22nd last.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Varian Banks,
Acting Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

(COPY)

February 11th, 1901.

Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Jackson:-

Thank you for yours of the 5th inst., in reply to mine of the 30th of January, relative to Mr. Stevenson's accounts. I have written to him in accordance therewith that the Board of Home Missions is short \$375.00 and not L. M. Stevenson. Now, do you not think it would be possible in some way to get this claim through on our behalf? Evidently, from all the correspondence on file, the advance was a temporary one made on behalf of the Government to help Mr. Stevenson's family out in a hard place. I do not know as you will be able to effect anything, but we should appreciate whatever you might be able to effect.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) H. C. Olin,

Treasurer.

Department of the Interior,

Bureau of Education,

ALASKA DIVISION.

Washington, D. C. February 5, 1901.



with Dr. Jackson as to what is a claim for a claim

Mr. H. C. Olin,

#156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Yours of January 30th with reference to Mr. Stevenson's accounts is received. In looking over the books of the Government, I find that on March 13th, 1897, we paid \$400.00 to Mrs. Mary J. Stevenson; on May 13th, 1897, we paid \$300.00, also to Mrs. Stevenson; on June 13th, 1898, we paid \$200.00 to Mr. Stevenson, making a total salary of \$900.00 which is all the Government ever agreed to pay him.

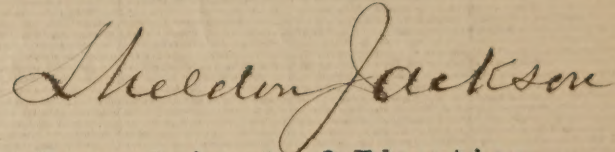
We cannot find that the \$375.00 was ever deducted from his salary, consequently it is Mr. Stevenson's duty to return that much to the Board. The fund from which his \$900.00 was paid has long since been exhausted, and there is no money appropriated by Congress from which the Government could pay that sum at the present date as unexpended balances of any fund are at the end of the year turned back into the Treasury, and could only be obtained by a special act of Congress. I am very sorry if through any inadvertence of mine in not withholding that sum you should lose that amount.

I have no record before me that I was notified at the time of the advance made by the Board as it is our custom, when we get such requests to place them where our attention will be called to them

when we come to settle up accounts.

As you request I return you the papers in the matter. I also thank you for the release of the Court from further responsibility as administrator of the estate of the late Elisha Sanderson.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheldon Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

General Agent of Education
in Alaska.

Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Education,
ALASKA DIVISION.

Washington, D. C., February 12, 1901.



*W.D.
By there no evidence
that the amt. was
not returned to
W.D.*

H.C. Olin

Mr. H. ~~Colin~~,
H.C.

Board of Home Missions,

#156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. ~~Colin~~:

Yours of the 11th is received. There is no way by which the Bureau of Education can pay that \$375.⁰⁰ except by a special act of Congress which would cost us a good deal more than that sum to secure. I am very sorry that the Bureau was not notified at the time, that the Board would advance that money to Mrs. Stevenson. If we had been notified, I cannot conceive why the Treasurer did not with~~hold~~ hold it.

Very truly yours,

Sheldon Jackson

General Agent of Education
in Alaska.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF U. S. SURVEYOR GENERAL
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

Sitka,

August 15, 1901.

Mr. Harvey C. Olin,
Treasurer Board of Home Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,
#156 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 26th ultimo relative to the survey and patenting of the lands of your mission stations in Alaska, is received.

On the day of the receipt of your letter, to which this is a reply, Mr. John G. Heid of Juneau brought to this office the plats and field notes of the survey of the following named mission stations, occupied and claimed by Board in Alaska as made by F. H. Whitworth in 1896, to wit:

Howkan, Hoonah, Haines, Wrangel and Sitka.

These will be of much benefit to this office in making the required report to the Commissioner of the General Land Office and in preparing instructions to the Deputy Surveyor when authority to make a contract for making the surveys is received.

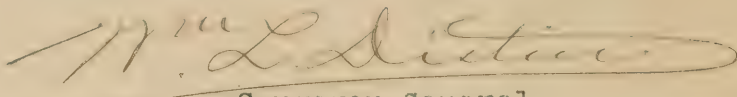
Had they not been received it would not have been any bar to having your claims surveyed or retarded the matter in the least.

In reply to your inquiry whether, provided your Board assumes the extra expense, I would, if you were to request it, put surveyors in the field at once without waiting for applications from all Boards and churches to be filed, I have to say that such an arrangement would not be in accordance with Departmental regulations and therefore such request could not be entertained.

2. H.C.Olin.

All but two of the church organizations have filed applications, and it is hoped the surveys may be made next season.

Yours very truly,


Surveyor General.

(C O P Y)

Rampart, Alaska,

Nov. 19th, 1901.

Rev. Charles L. Thompson, D.D.

Sec'y Home Mission Board,

New York.

My dear Brother:-

My regular quarterly report was due the first of this month, but I have delayed it, partly because the winter mail had not come into effectual operation at that time, and partly, because I wished to include in the report an account of the beginning of my work at the new camp on Glen Gulch, forty miles across the country, where I have been spending the past two weeks.

I have written you since my return to Rampart, of the renewal of our work here. The first few weeks were fully occupied in repairing our building and getting ~~my~~ own quarters into condition for the winter. I have preached every Sunday, including one spent on the way up river when services were held on board the boat. Our meetings here have been better attended than formerly and it seems apparent that there is a growing interest, slow but sure, in the things of the Kingdom of God.

The men seemed very glad to see me back here again, and my heart has been gladdened by the warm welcome I received, even from some of whom I least expected it. Some of the men who, during my previous residence here, seemed utterly indifferent to my work, have, since my return, become hearty supporters and regular attendants at our meetings.

Since about the first of October a good part of our people have moved over to Glen Gulch, the newly discovered mining region, and consequently the town is rather dull. We have, however, always twelve or fifteen persons to our meetings, which is not a bad proportion, considering that there are not a

more than fifty regular residents.

On Glen Gulch there are now about two hundred men at work and a hundred more scattered about, prospecting in that region. There are perhaps still another hundred scattered around with a radius of thirty miles, and this makes up the population of our camp for the present.

Last Sunday and the Sunday previous (Nov. 10th and 17th) I spent on Glen Gulch, remaining there the intervening week. The trail has been very bad, on account of the very light snow fall. I dragged my sled over it, however, with my blankets and two weeks' supply of "grub," taking two days for the forty miles. I arranged for a meeting on Sunday evening at one of the cabins, and was agreeably surprised to find a congregation of twenty-six men awaiting me when I arrived. The following week I spent in visiting the men, making the acquaintance of the new ones and renewing old acquaintances. Two days I spent in a trip to a trading post on the Tanana river, eighteen miles from Glen, where there will undoubtedly be a town next summer. While there I arranged with the men at the post to reserve lots for a church when the new town is laid out. Some time was spent also in wandering over the hills in search of game; I succeeded in bagging a number of "prairie chickens" ptarmigan and rabbits, but the "big game" kept out of the way; altho' I followed a moose for a whole day, he succeeded in getting away. The second Sunday our meeting was better advertised and consequently better attended. Forty-four men and two women (the only ones in the region) packed themselves into a cabin 13 x 16 feet in size, cumbered with stove, bunks and all the impedimenta of a miner's outfit. By the flickering light of two candles we read our Scripture lessons and sang our hymns. The singing threatened to literally "raise the roof" and would have done credit to a congregation ten times its size, so heartily did all join in the music. We had no organ, but a mandolin and

a guitar in skilful hands made a good accompaniment, and although perhaps not the "harp" and the "instrument of ten strings" used in the old Temple service, they served well in making a joyful noise unto the Lord. The lady who played the mandolin was a New Englander and the young man who played the guitar a native from the Sandwich Islands.

As this is the largest community of persons in this region, I have arranged to spend half of my time there, and divide the other half between the town and other near by creeks where there are settlements of some size. It will require a good deal of "mushing" on my part but my legs are equal to it, I think. I believe that there would be no difficulty in working up a congregation of one hundred on Glen, if we had a room large enough to accommodate the crowd. At all events I am much encouraged, all around, by the interest manifested, and if the future of this region comes up to expectations, I hope to see a church organized with a good membership within the next year or two.

Regarding the future of this place, I think it is settled beyond a doubt that it will be a large and growing community. The town, or center of interest and base of supplies will be either here at Rampart, or on the Tanana River opposite - it matters little which, so far as our work is concerned, for where the men are, there I shall go.

The recent discoveries and developments on Glen Gulch and neighboring creeks is truly a marvel of richness not surpassed by any other mining region in Alaska, and if the surmise of the expert miners be correct, it is but the outer edge of a new and rich field, as yet unexplored. When the news of this camp reaches the "outside" and is verified, there will sure-

ly be an influx of gold seekers. We hope it will not be a stampede but a regular and steady growth of real prospectors and practical miners.

The first mail from the lower river and coast came yesterday. Your good letter of Sept. 10th forwarded from Teller, came with it. It is the first news I have had of the failure to get a man for our work at Teller for this winter. Had I known this before leaving there, I should no doubt have stayed. Dr. Young was so confident that you would be able to send a new man there, that we felt it was safe and the right thing that I should come back to Rampart. I think, however, that Dr. Meacham will be able to keep our work going there for the winter, but a minister ought to be sent as early as possible in the Spring.

I expect to attend the next meeting of the General Assembly, as I formerly wrote you. Will leave here about March 1st, and if I have good luck will reach Seattle about April 20th. It is a clean thousand miles of travel by dog-team, and that means, of course, that one walks and pushes the sled while the dogs pull, but I hope to get through in good condition at the rate of thirty miles per day. At White Horse, 375 miles above Dawson, we find the terminus of the W.P. & Y. Railway and there the journey is practically ended.

I shall take this occasion to make my request to the Board to be returned to Rampart for the following year. I had thought that when I once should leave this land, it would be final; but if the Board is satisfied with my humble services and wishes me to return next summer, I shall be glad to do so. I am greatly interested to see the "outcome" of this camp. Brighter things are opening before it, and having been with it through its travail and sorrow, I should like to see the beginnings, at least, of its prosperity. More than this, I have conceived a strong interest in the men whom I am just beginning to

know in such a way as to make my influence felt. There are the beginnings of an interest in things spiritual that hold rich promises for the future, if properly guided and stimulated; and since in work among this class of men it is so largely a matter of individual and personal care and influence, I feel that I am less likely to blunder than a new and inexperienced man would be. So if the Board desires it, I shall be ready to return next summer, soon after the season of open navigation begins - say the first of July.

I have not heard from Dr. Young since he left Nome, but perchance he is in Southeastern Alaska, according to his plan for winter work.

Our weather has been unusually pleasant this Fall. The coldest, so far, has not exceeded 30 below zero, and the snowfall has been very light, scarcely enough to make good trail for sledding.

My health continues good and I have yet to experience my first day's sickness in Alaska.

As this will probably reach you about Christmas time, I will close by wishing you a "Merry Christmas" and praying that the choicest and richest blessings of the incarnate Son of God may rest upon and abide with you in the labors and joys of your service to Him.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

M. Egbert Koonce.

(C O P Y)

Presbyterian Mission,

Eagle, Alaska, December 21st, 1901.

Dear Dr. Thompson:-

Yours of November 20th reached us yesterday, the first mail we have had via Skagway and Dawson since the boats ceased to run. The mail via Valdez has however served us well this Fall and we are sure that the All-American-Route will e'er long bring in all our States mail. By the last named route we are receiving other than first class mail and that adds greatly to our joy.

It was very reassuring to read your cheerful words after so long a silence - in fact we had begun to wonder if you were taking the time to forge a rod of correction for us, a sort of "Bishop's rod"!

E'er this you have learned that we have completed our reading room and got the Mission generally in good shape for the Winter. We take no little pride in feeling that we have in this north land such a mission, with rooms so spacious and convenient and with so good an appointment of books, magazines and other reading matter. It is easy to see that the better portion of the people also take pride in the same. Our services were never better attended and yet the outlook for the organization of a church is not encouraging. There are business men here who favor the idea but the enrollment is the one difficult idea. We are prayerfully anxious that matters will change for the better before long.

You refer to our going out next Spring. That we could not do unless we went out over the ice. The General Assembly will no doubt be in session before the ice in the Yukon breaks - it was so last May. In fact there is no certainty that the river steamers will be running till July unless we should go via St. Michael and the sea. Owing to July being the court month and the time for the influx of strangers and as

August is one of the greatest months for travel it would be a serious mistake for us to leave before the first of September. We expect Dr. Young, with the Board's approval, to secure a supply while we are absent, and have gone so far as to write to him to that effect. There is a young man, Rev. Edward Miller Scheirer, of Syracuse, N.Y. Elmwood ave. Church, who has offered himself to the F. M. Board for the Philippines. The Board wrote me about him. He was one of my boys and the Leverington church educated him. In replying, I stated what I believed to be the fact, that they would not accept him, not for any intellectual or spiritual lack, but on the ground of a recent rheumatic trouble. If the F.M.B. have not accepted him then I have asked that he and Young be put in correspondence with a view of introducing him to the H. M. Board for the Alaskan work, with an initial trial at Eagle to see how it would go.

We have some ground for the hope that we will have things in better shape before anyone can get here and we have always held out to the people that our work in Eagle was to be permanent and have backed up the same by the character of our building. By the close of next season we will have fuller proof as to the worth of the mining interests in the vicinity and we are aware that there are to be more efforts than ever put forth. In all probability the Valdez Ry. will be begun next season with the view of completing it as far as the copper mines and that means e'er long that it will reach Eagle. The steamboat combine of last year was such a disappointment to the towns of the river that there are to be vigorous efforts made in the interests of independent lines and stores. Prices are still high but not quite so bad as in '89 when we first came. We realize this now for we are purchasing from the stores here, not having sent out for supplies last season.

The people are sharing with us the expense of maintaining the reading room tho there seems to be but little

money in the place, and less dust.

We are satisfied that this Mission should be sustained even though it continue to be but a mission for a year or two more. It would seem as tho a church ought to be organized first and then the people erect their own building but the order may have to be reversed here. We are not able to forecast next season's work in that line but we hope to be able to do something. We are so cosily fixed at present tho our quarters are ^{too} small for comfort at this season of the year that it would not be wise to attempt anything as matters now stand. Regarding our going out we are clearly convinced that it is due to ourselves to do so under the present conditions of living in this place. The Winters are too intense and the isolation too great to remain longer. When the food conditions improve and the whole soacial structure gains a higher level then longer periods can be borne with impunity. The army plan is to keep their men here but two years and such has been the case so far. Men in the hard work of out-door life can endure the living better than those whose work requires sedentary habits. All in all the ~~maxia~~ improvement during the period we have been here has been very great.

It is not too soon to inquire if you have any suggestions to make regarding ourselves or the situation here that we may plan according to your pleasure. Be assured that we both wish with all our heart to execute your wishes to the utmost. To do this we will have to know them. If you wish us to continue here, or take a trip out and return, or take up new work or return to a home pastorate - we have full confidence in your judgment and in your personal interest in us to advise according to the general and particular needs there and here - we will be glad to have your full expression.

We both have enjoyed excellent health in this north land and think that the hard work of the building operations and the enforced exercise as a "hewer of wood and carrier

"of water" has had not a little to do with it. But the burden of that hard work is now done and matters have settled down to the more normal features of the ministerial life and we shall wait to see the outcome.

So far we have had an exceptionally mild winter and this is bad for the prospector who must have the ground frozen in order to keep the water out of the holes he sinks.

It is reported that the Yukon trail will be heavily traveled this winter in the rush to the Koyukuk and that will bring a lot of people here temporarily. There will be no such stampede as to Nome but a good heavy travel for the trail. Of course most of them will return disappointed but that seems to be a part of the plan.

We are getting up a Xmas tree for the Indians and the ladies have taken up the matter with a commendable spirit. The services are to be held in the Mission Xmas morning 10.30 and that is early in the morning for us. At that time the day has just fully dawned if that can be said when the sun does not rise at all.

On Xmas eve we have invited the people in for a social evening and that will give all an opportunity to see the tree - anything like that is a great curiosity here - and there would not be room enough for the whites when the Indians are all on hand.

We did not know what had become of Dr. Young till you wrote and you know that Dr. Koonce is expecting to take a short run out going over the ice, appear at the General Assembly and return in the early summer. We understood that the Board was to send a man to Teller and are surprised to learn that the work has been left in Dr. Meacham's hands. He is a good man to be sure but not a minister.

For some reason, my own unintentional omission in

not subscribing I suppose, we do not see the Assembly Herald. We therefore do not know who is at Sitka and some other of those south eastern points. It will be next July before I get the last Assembly Minutes and am therefore in the dark.

Mrs. Kirk joins me in the heartiest wishes for the Board and our daily prayer is for it and you all.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

James Wollaston Kirk.

Washington, D. C. September 25, 1902.

The Hon. William Geary Sanger,

Assistant Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. is and has been over twenty years carrying on missionary and mission school work in the Territory of Alaska, its mission stations being located at several different points in said Territory.

Lands for the use of missionary societies and boards, as missionary stations, are covered by Sec. 7, of the organic act of 1884 which reads:

"That the land, not exceeding 640 acres at any station, now occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes in said section, with the improvements thereon erected by or for such societies, shall be continued in the occupancy of the several religious societies to which said missionary stations respectively belong until action by Congress."

The act of March 3, 1891, provides:

"And all tracts of land, not exceeding 640 acres in any one tract, now occupied as missionary stations in said district of Alaska are hereby excepted from the operations of the last three preceding sections of this act".

One of these stations maintained by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church is known as "Haines Mission," located near Chilcat on Lynn Canal. At this point the said Board of Home Missions has expended in buildings and improvements nearly \$10,000.00 and has for many years maintained work there at a cost of thousands of dollars more.

The tract set apart for its use at this point was surveyed in 1886 by Deputy U. S. Surveyor Withworth whose notes and plats are on file in the office of the Surveyor General of Alaska at Sitka and at all other points required by law.

The land is partially cleared, some of it being used for garden purposes, other for pasturage, wood land etc. It comprises about 503 acres, is surrounded by a wire fence, with a one story building marking each corner.

War Department general order number 6, issued by the Adjutant General's Office under date of *Setting apart the described lands for the Military Reservation* Jan. 14, 1889, reads (Paragraph 2) as follows:

"Beginning at a point on the shore line of Lynn Canal just north of where the road from Haines Mission turns westerly toward Chilcat; thence southerly along coast line of Lynn Canal a distance of two miles; thence west one mile; thence northerly two miles; thence east one mile to point of beginning"

This order covers a considerable part of the lands set apart for Haines Mission.

No active steps have been taken by the War Department, to use or occupy this land for the purposes of a military reserve, until the past summer. In August our representative at Haines was furnished with a plat of the survey made at Haines, the past summer, by Government surveyors. A copy of that plat is herewith. The area included within the red lines and marked "U. S. M. R." comprises about 270 acres of the mission reserve- thus leaving of the said mission reserve about 220 acres to the north of the Military Reservation. Upon this remaining portion "jumpers" are locating and the Board of Home Missions is being subjected to much annoyance and expense in defending its holdings.

Statutes

By act of June 6, 1900,- United States, at Large- Vol 31, page 21, Sec. 27. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to survey and patent to Mission Boards and societies lands not exceeding 640 acres at each station, which at the time of the passage of said act was in possession of the said societies or boards. Neither in the said act of June 6, 1900, nor in any subsequent legislation, however, has there been any appropriation to cover the expenses of the said survey.

As against the United States Government the Board of Home Mission does not propose to set up any claim to the 270 acres above referred to as taken by the Government for^a military reservation, but it does desire to secure from the War Department

such active assistance in the maintenance of its claim to the remaining 280 acres as may be possible. As has been said above "jumpers" are locating upon our reserve, and we respectfully ask that the WAR Department will direct its representatives in the District of Alaska to render such assistance, as is consistent and possible, in assisting the Board of Home Missions to maintain its claim.

Very respectfully,

The Board of Home Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

By

Harry C. Oliver
Treasurer.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, November 15, 1902.

FILE NO.

My Dear Sir:

Referring to the proposition contained in your letter to the Department of September 25, 1902, the receipt of which has already been acknowledged, I have caused inquiry to be made as to the location of the proposed military post at the Haines Mission in Alaska, and find that a considerable portion of the reservation, as announced in the Executive Order of December 31, 1898, relates to land which, at that date, was in the lawful occupation and possession of The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

In the concluding paragraph of your letter of September 25, the following proposition is submitted:

"As against the United States Government the Board of Home Mission does not propose to set up any claim to the 270 acres above referred to as taken by the Government for a military reservation, but it does desire to secure from the War Department such active assistance in the maintenance of its claim to the remaining 230 acres as may be possible. As has been said above 'jumpers' are locating upon our reserve, and we respectfully ask that the War Department will direct its representatives in the District of Alaska to render such assistance, as is consistent and possible in assisting the Board of Home Missions to maintain its claim."

You are, of course, aware that it is not within the power of the War Department to interpose directly in matters relating to the private ownership of land, or to eject trespassers therefrom; that being the duty of the civil courts whose orders and judgments are ordinarily enforced by the civil officers provided by law for that purpose. But certain duties are vested in the

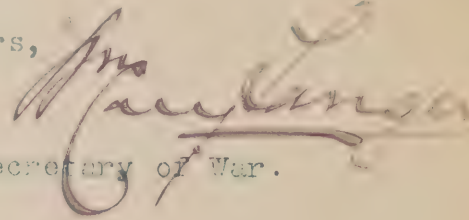
President in connection with the administration of the public lands, in the performance of which he is authorized, in his discretion, to make use of military force. Under the authority conferred by Section 5 of the Act of February 25, 1885, (23 Stats. at L., 321) he may prevent inclosures of the public lands and, under the Act of March 3, 1807, (2 Stats. at L., 445) he may eject trespassers from lands acquired by treaty: Section 27 of the Act of June 6, 1900, (31 Stats. at L., 330) authorizes him to use the military forces of the United States to execute the judgments of the civil courts in Alaska. If, therefore, you apply to the civil courts for assistance in the ejectment of trespassers, the local military commander may be authorized to execute the process of the courts in that regard.

If such interposition as is indicated above, which is all that the law authorizes at present, will be satisfactory to the Board and if, upon such showing, you are willing to relinquish so much of the area secured to the church at Haines Mission as is overlapped by the military reservation it will greatly facilitate the Department in its efforts to establish a military post in that vicinity. It is proper to say, also, that without such cooperation on the part of the Board the establishment of a post will have to be indefinitely postponed.

If the Board is willing to surrender that tract constituting the site of the proposed post, it can only be accomplished by submitting an application to the Land Office for a new patent,

in which the mission grounds shall be so described as to exclude the tract upon which the construction of the post has been recommended: the Executive Order will then become operative as to that area and the construction can be proceeded with. The favor of an early reply containing an expression of the views of the Mission Board will be very thoroughly appreciated: and I remain,

Very sincerely yours,



Assistant Secretary of War.

Mr. Harvey C. Olin,

Treasurer,

The Board of Home Missions of the

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,

Washington, D.C.

F.F.

December 6th, 1902.

Hon. W. Carey Sanger,

Assistant Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 15th inst., relative to the property at Haines Mission, Alaska, which has so long been held by this Board under occupancy title, and a part of which, amounting approximately to 270 acres was, by Executive Order of December 31st, 1898, set apart as a Military Reserve, came to hand on the 2nd inst., and has been submitted for consideration to the Board of Home Missions and its Finance Committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board, at its regular monthly meeting on the 4th inst., passed the series of resolutions a copy of which (certified by the Clerk of our Board and under the Board's seal) I pass you herewith. You will see therefrom that the Board surrenders its right to the 270 acres of land under discussion, and directs that a new application be made to the Land Office for the remaining 233 acres of the plat originally claimed under occupancy right by this Board.

In taking this action, the Board appreciates, very thoroughly, the attitude of the War Department in assuring such assistance as it is able in the ejection of trespassers, etc.

Let me say, with regard to the matter of trespassers, that proceedings are now under way against certain parties who have located upon the 233 acres of land which the Board wishes to hold. I shall forward a copy of your letter, and of the resolution of the Board, to our agent in Alaska, the Rev. S. Hall Young, D. D., of Skagway, and shall direct him, if necessary, to call upon the local military commander for such assistance as it is possible, under the law, for the military to render. We will also at once make application to the Land Office for a new patent covering the remaining acreage in the original plat.

I take it that the War Department will not desire that the Board of Home Missions shall be put to any expense or cost in the readjustment of the lines. Will you not, therefore, direct that if any readjustment of fences is required, it shall be done at the cost of the War Department, and that the new survey shall be made without cost to this Board.

Permit me to convey to you, sir, the sincere thanks of this office and of the Board of Home Missions, for your kindly and prompt action in investigating this matter, and in laying so clearly before us the measure of help which it is possible for the War Department to render.

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

F.P.

February 19th, 1903.

Hon. W. Carey Sanger.

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In the course of our negotiations with the General Land Office, with regard to the survey and patenting of lands claimed by this Board at Kaines Mission, Alaska, we have found it necessary to refer to the negotiations carried on with your office, in December last, relative to that part of our claim set apart as a Military Reservation. I am now asked by the Hon. W. A. Richards, Commissioner of the General Land Office, to furnish him copies of the letters from the War Department bearing on this subject. Before complying with that request, I shall be glad to receive your permission so to do.

Will you kindly say also, whether the communication from this office, dated December 4th, in which this Board gave notice of the relinquishment of its right to the 270 acres of land under consideration, was received at your office, and whether the matter was thereby put in the shape desired.

Thanking you, sir, in advance for the courtesy of an early reply, I am,

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON,

February 25, 1903.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the claim of the Board of Home Missions to land at Haines Mission, Alaska, and replying to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honor to advise you that there is no objection on the part of the War Department to the Board furnishing to the Commissioner of the General Land Office copies of correspondence with this Department on the subject. You are also advised that your letter of December 4th, in which the Board gave notice of the relinquishment of its right to the 270 acres of land under consideration, was duly received and is satisfactory.

It may be added, in this connection, that the Judge Advocate General, who has had under consideration the questions affecting the title to the land at Haines Mission, intends at an early date to confer with the Commissioner of the General Land Office regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

Frederick A. Linde
Assistant Secretary of War.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
Treasurer, Board of Home Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

F.F.

February 28th, 1903.

Hon. Wm. Carey Sanger,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your valued favor of the 25th inst., in reply to our inquiry of the 19th inst., relative to the correspondence regarding lands at Haines Mission, Alaska, is at hand, and I am accordingly to-day furnishing the General Land Office with copies of your letter of November 15th 1902.

Permit me to say that we appreciate your courtesy in this matter, and we also appreciate the further suggestion that the Judge Advocate General intends, at an early date, to confer with the Commissioner of the General Land Office regarding the whole subject.

I am, Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

Treasurer.

(C o p y)

Sitka, July 29, 1903.

Hon. John G. Price,
Attorney for Board of Home Missions,
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 20th instant advising this office that the U. S. Marshal has ejected all claimants from the lands claimed by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church at Haines, Alaska, and asking to be informed in regard to the present status of the said mission claim relative to survey and patent, is received.

In reply I will say that, invitations for proposals to execute the survey of mission claims in Alaska, were issued to the U. S. Deputy Surveyors of this District under date of June 30, 1903, and that bids thereunder will be opened August 15, 1903.

The claim of your clients at Haines is included in these invitations. Whether it will be possible to perfect the contract so as to enable the Deputy to whom it is awarded, to enter the field this season or not, is problematic. When the contract is awarded, you will be promptly advised.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wm. L. Distin,

Surveyor General.

F.F.

August 11th, 1903.

J. G. Price, Esq.,
430 Lumber Exchange,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 6th inst., enclosing a letter from Surveyor General Distin in Alaska, with regard to the proposals to execute the survey of mission claims in Alaska, etc., together with a news paper clipping relating to the same subject, is at hand this morning. Thank you very much for the reading of these documents. It looks a little as if the Department working so deliberately, that our surveys will be thrown over into another year. It does seem as if they might put on a little pressure and rush things. Can you do anything to hurry matters? We shall appreciate it if you can.

I return the letter to you as requested.

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

August 15, 1903.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Subject: Survey of Mission sites.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
Treasurer Board of Home Missions Presbyterian Church,
No. 156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo making inquiry as to the filing of an amended claim for the location of a mission tract at Haines, Alaska.

You state that the amended claim has been filed at the General Land Office at Sitka, and you ask if it be filed in this office as you are uncertain as to whether it be necessary to file in both the Alaska Office and General Land Office.

In reply I have to inform you that the amended claim described has not yet reached this office, but if it be filed in the surveyor general's office at Sitka, it will not be necessary to also file it here, as the surveyor general will forward it to this office for proper action, provided it is in proper form. If the application be defective, the surveyor general will advise you.

Very respectfully,

M. W. Richardson

L.J.

Commissioner.

F.F.

August 17th, 1903.

J. G. Price, Esq.,

Seattle, Wash.

My dear Sir:-

With further reference to the filing of the amended claim for the location of the mission tract at Haines, I beg to hand you herewith a copy of letter just received from Hon. W. A. Richards, Commissioner of the General Land Office. I presume that everything is all right and satisfactory, and I suppose we may assume that to be the case unless you have heard something to the contrary from the office at Sitka.

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

F.F.

August 17th, 1903.

Hon. W. A. Richards,
Commissioner, General Land Office,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Your valued favor of the 15th inst., in reply to ours of the 30th ult., with regard to the ~~notice~~ filing of an amended claim for a location for the mission tract at Haines, Alaska, is at hand this morning. We thank you for the same.

From the fact that we have not been notified that the claim made through the General Land Office at Sitka is defective, we presume that it is in proper order.

Respectfully yours,

Treasurer.

KIRKPATRICK, PRICE & CARVER
LAWYERS
430-31-32 LUMBER EXCHANGE
SEATTLE, U. S. A.

LESTER E. KIRKPATRICK
JOHN G. PRICE
FREDERICK J. CARVER

TELEPHONE MAIN 814

Seattle, Wash., August 25, 1903.

Mr. H. C. Olin, Esq.,

Tres. Board of Home Missions,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Sir:

I have your of August 17th re survey of mission sites signed by W. A. Richards, Commissioner. There are no new features in the Mission cases known to me.

I am in receipt of a recent letter from the Surveyer General for Alaska saying that the matter for the surveys were being pushed with all possible speed. Should there be any new developments I shall promptly advise you.

Yours truly,

Dict-J.G.P.

KIRKPATRICK, PRICE & CARVER
LAWYERS
430-31-32 LUMBER EXCHANGE
SEATTLE, U. S. A.

LESTER E. KIRKPATRICK
JOHN G. PRICE
FREDERICK J. CARVER

TELEPHONE MAIN 814

Skaguay, Alaska November 12th., 1903.

Rev. Norman B. Harrison,
Haines, Alaska.

My dear sir:-

Advises from the Surveyor General are to the effect that he has opened the bids for the surveying of the mission tracts in Alaska, and had sent them on to Washington several months ago for the approval of the department. This, of course, holds matters in abeyance until the department sees fit to act.

In regard to the cases against Marquam, Handy et al; the clerk tells me she paid the entire sum of money collected, to you. This includes the amount in each case taxed "as attorney fees" Kindly send me a check for this amount, \$20,00 in each case.

Yours very truly



Use through with this - [illegible]

Haines, Alaska 10-31, 1904

Gro. F. Meffer, Esq.

Dear Sir:

During October locators on the sea beach are moving off. M. E. Handy pulled his frame shack from 60 ft roadway to Jack Fairfield's garden, squatter outside mission fence, but on mission land. Fairfield bring on Mission Claim was not included in Military Order to move off.

Within 24 hrs. after Handy pulled his shack upon mission he and Fairfield were given written notice to vacate each his premises.

Most of the beach inhabitants have moved off all are preparing to do so except Mr Sullivan painter at the military post. Sullivan's wife proposed to move her house across the way, street, live in it two or three years then vacate forever.

The house is frame, shell, much of the lumber is inferior 2nd hand, and would require a considerable outlay of money to make it respectable or comfortable after being vacated by the Sullivans. The offer was refused.

I wish when the new minister comes he would not be given control over the tools I use. I was deprived of the use of some tools but for me all the time Mr Harrison was here and some are missing.

I built a log house 20'x12' and one and a half stories high during October at a cost to me of \$82⁵⁰ besides a little material, and a few days labor by the men you paid and which I intended to deduct from my ^{af} % but forgot to do so when making the statement. When finished will use the building for a hen house.

A. R. Macintosh

A. WISHART & SONS' CO.,

.....DEALERS IN.....

LUMBER, HARDWARE AND
BUILDERS' SUPPLIES GENERALLY,
MANTELS AND TILE WORK.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.
OFFICE, 24 RAILROAD STREET.

Sharon, Pa., Nov. 15, 1904.

The Board of Home Missions,
New York.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to yours of the 12th asking in regard to the meeting held on the 14th by the minority stockholders of the Rampart City Gold Mining Co., would say that to take the whole matter up would require more time than the writer has time to devote to the subject at the present, but to shorten the matter, would say that some of the minority stockholders have been rather dissatisfied with the manner in which the business of the Company has been conducted, as practically all the stock that has been sold in this section, and we think that fully 75% of the stock is held within a radius of 25 miles from Sharon, has been sold on the representation that the organizers of whom there were ten put in \$1000 each, and took 10,000 shares of stock, so that the people that purchased stock early at 10¢ a share were on practically the same basis as the organizers themselves, besides it had been stated by the fiscal agent that no salaries were paid, and the only expenses outside of the actual expenses of getting machinery etc. was a very small commission paid to him, and stated on several occasions that this commission was 10%. The matter was talked over by the writer and several others of the minority stockholders, and we decided that it was due ourselves and other people that had put money into the venture to investigate the matter thoroughly, so the writer and S.C. Simington of Clark Pa made a trip to Cleveland, and went over the books. We found that Mr. Alanson Wilcox, the Sec'y. is a very nice man to talk to, but is no book-keeper. His idea of double entry books is to enter everything twice. We find that the nine directors, who were the organizers each hold 55,000 shares in their own name, for which they never paid anything but \$50, and one of them never paid anything. You will understand, however, that these directors have devoted considerable time in looking after the affairs of the Company, for which they have never been paid anything, besides that they have taken care of all their minor expenses in attending meetings etc., but all the large expenses, such as trips to San Francisco etc. have been born by the Company. The meeting held yesterday afternoon was attended by about 100 of the minority stockholders, and four of the directors, comprising the Pres., Tres., fiscal agent and Mr. E.N. Baer of New Castle. Mr. Baer gave us a very nice talk admitting everything as the writer has given it above, and stated that it was usual in such cases for the promoters to take as high as 50% of the stock, and he seemed to consider that they had been very reasonable in taking only 500,000 out of a total capital of 1,000,000.

So far the minority stockholders have never had a representative, and they have paid in between \$60,000 to \$70,000, and hold something like about 400,000 shares, while the organizers who never paid in but \$400 holds 500,000 shares, and naturally controls the elections. They agreed at the meeting to give us at least one director to look after the interest of the minority stockholders. The writer is under the impression that if the matter was carried to court, we could compell them to release a considerable amount of the stock they carry, but there is some question in regard to this, and as they have two good attorneys among the promoters it would

A. WISHART & SONS' CO.,

.....DEALERS IN.....

LUMBER, HARDWARE AND
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OFFICE, 24 RAILROAD STREET.

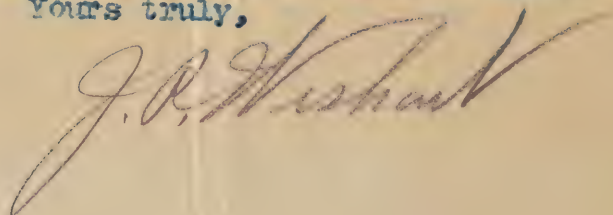
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Sharon, Pa.,.....

take considerable money to prosecute the matter, and it would be very hard to get the minority stockholders to put up the necessary amount, as some of them get very much provoked when they understand that they have gotten into a thing that is not exactly as it has been represented to them, and refuses to pay anything. If we could get the ~~for~~ people that paid for their stock and belong to the minority stockholders to put up about 1¢ a share to look the matter up we might do something, but the writer is of the opinion that at the present time, we might just as well keep quiet for to make a big kick now when the Company is in debt some \$10,000 or \$15,000, would stop the sale of stock, and consequently bankrupt the Company, and he does not think this advisable, as the indications are very good for the Company paying a dividend this coming season, but the thing that hurts in particular is the fact that the people that promoted this Company practically paying nothing towards the running expenses will get more than 50% of all the gold that might be produced.

The writer would be pleased to hear from you, but we think the best course would be to keep ~~the~~ quiet until we see how things come out.

Yours truly,



Copied from Mr. A. R. Mackintosh's report written from Haines, Alaska, for the quarter ending December 31st, 1904.

Without instructions to do so, I should not have consented to the putting of a school building for white children, either on Main Street, or between Main Street and the mission building; because it required the enumeration of both Haines and children at Military Post to secure funds for a government public school; where the school building is equates the distance traveled by children from each place or village: and the increase of children of school age is likely to be a matter of slow growth.

CPOY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office.

Washington, D. C. April 4, 1904.

Subject: Instructions for Mission Surveys.

Hon. Sheldon Jackson,

General Agent for Education in Alaska,

Bureau of Education.

Sir:

I have received your letter dated April 1, 1904, requesting to be furnished a copy of the instructions issued from this office to its employees in Alaska with reference to the surveying and platting of mission stations.

In reply you are advised that the surveyor general is now preparing contracts and instructions for several groups of the mission surveys, but none have been received here up to this time. He is charged with the duty of preparing the specific instructions to guide their actions, and the same will become part of the contract. They will be examined here, and if not found to be consonant with the Annual Instructions addressed to him by this office May 27, 1903, they may be returned for correction before the approval of the contract.

The division of the whole duty into 12 groups of surveys, and the progress being made in the effort to make lawful provision for their execution, may be explained to you at any time you desire to confer personally on the subject.

Very respectfully,

(signed) W. A. Richards,
Commissioner.

File 7-10-11
Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C.,
April 8, 1904.

My dear Sir:

I enclose you a copy of a letter just received from the Commissioner of the General Land Office with regard to Mission Surveys. I am hoping to be able shortly to go over and have a full conference with him on the subject, after which I will write you again.

Very truly yours,

Sheldon Jackson

(Enclosure.)

U. S. General Agent, &c.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
ALASKA DIVISION,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
Board of Home Missions,
156 5th Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Olin:

Yours of December 10th, has been waiting the printing of the Annual Report of the General Land Office, which report I enclose you under separate cover.

You will find the information concerning Alaska on pages 14, 328, 329, & 330.

You will notice that contracts were given for survey of the mission lands, last April and May. The probabilities are that the larger part of the lands were surveyed during the summer and fall. No information has reached the General Land Office concerning it. They think that probably the plats are being made up this winter and may be transmitted to the General Land Office for approval, any time. By reading carefully pages 328 to 330, inclusive, you will be able to glean out the several mission tracts belonging to the Home Board.

I would suggest that you write Mr. William L. Distin, U. S. Surveyor General of Alaska, Sitka, Alaska, and request him to send you the metes and bounds of each tract that have been surveyed for the Presbyterian Board.

For These copies ^{*he is*} ~~are~~ entitled to pay, and it will be well for you to ask him to send you a bill for the same. The surveying of the plats are to be done at the expense of the Government.

The expense above referred to is simply clerical hire for copying.

With reference to the land at Haines, I think I have already written you, that I would allow no houses to remain between the mission premises and the water. That sixty foot strip along the beach, ^{*Congress*} ~~they~~ put into the ^{*law*} ~~bill~~ to prevent any party from monopolizing the beach, ~~and retaining it as Government property.~~

The house that is now used for a public school in front of the mission, I would allow them to use it without molestation, until June 1905, at which time I would insist on its being removed from in front of the mission and all others that are on that tract in the same position. If you let only the two houses remain, it will be like the fable of the "camels head and the tent." Pretty soon the whole space will be taken up by business and other houses, to the great detriment of the mission.

The printed reports sent you, will give the places to be surveyed ^{*for*} ~~by~~ the Presbyterians. In calling for meters and bounds, it will be wise to give the list of the places concerning which you desire meters and bounds.

Very sincerely yours,

Sheldon Jackson

U. S. General Agent of Education in Alaska.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

Sitka, February 3, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
Sec'y Board of Home Missions,
Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.,
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 16th ultimo, stating that through the last report of the Department of the Interior, you note in the report of the Surveyor General of Alaska, that certain mission lands have been surveyed on the account of your Board at certain points in Alaska where it is carrying on missions, namely, at Wrangell, Saxman, Haines, Sitka, St. Lawrence Island, Howkan, Hoonah, Eagle and Pt. Barrow, and ask to be furnished, at once, with the metes and bounds of each tract which has been thus surveyed on behalf of your Board.

In reply you are advised that although contracts have been awarded for the survey of mission reserves claimed by your Board at the points mentioned, the deputies have not filed the field notes of their surveys with this office yet, and consequently it is impracticable to comply with your request at present.

My report to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior does not state that these tracts have been surveyed, but that contracts for the survey of them have been awarded.

I will say in this connection that the Deputy to whom

H. C. 0---2.

was awarded the contract for survey of the group of mission reserves in which are the claims of your Board at St. Lawrence Island, and Point Barrow, declined to accept it on account of failure to obtain transportation to the various points it would be necessary for him to visit, except at rates which would have been ruinous at the compensation specified.

Invitations for the execution of the surveys of the mission reserves included in said group have again been issued to the Deputy Surveyors and it is hoped that another contract for the survey of them may be made sometime during the next Spring.

Very truly yours,


Surveyor General.

F.F.

February 17th, 1905.

Hon. Wm. L. Distin,
Surveyor General,
Sitka, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of February 3rd, in reply to our inquiry of the 16th of January, with regard to the surveys of the various mission stations of this Board in Alaska, is at hand and has had the attention of the officers of the Board.

Noting your statement that "the deputies have not filed the field notes of their surveys with this office yet, and consequently it is impracticable to comply with your request at present." Let me ask when these deputies will be likely to file these notes, and further, whether they have unlimited time in which to do so? My reason for asking these questions is that the delays in the making of these surveys, and in the issuing of patents to these societies, has become most exasperating. For four or five years now, since the passage of legislation in June 1900 I believe, it has been within the power of the Department to have these surveys made. Plans which our Board has been making, and various matters connected with the work at these various points, have been greatly hindered in their carrying out by this long delay in the issue of patents.

Knowing you to be a good friend of the work of this Board, we earnestly request that you will do whatever lies in your power to hasten the issue of these patents.

Thanking you for any courtesies and help which you may be able to extend in facilitating matters, I am,
Sirs,

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

F.F.

May 5th, 1905.

Hon. Chauncey M. Depew,

U. S. Senator,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Since 1878 the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church has been doing a large amount of mission, and mission school work in South Eastern Alaska. The Board has also, since the development of gold in the Yukon and Behring Sea regions, had missionaries upon the field in many of the camps. In conducting this mission work, many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended for salaries and expenses of missionaries, for the expense of maintaining and building of school houses and chapels, and in various other ways, which amounts of money have been expended in the carrying on of its work.

Under the laws governing the allotment of lands, there have been set apart, at the various stations, particularly in South Eastern Alaska, certain lands for the use of the agencies of this Board, its missions, mission schools, etc., the Board holding the same by possessory right pending the actual issuing of patents. Under the law passed in June 1900, the Interior Department was directed to have these lands surveyed, and to issue patents to various denominations which had been holding them by possessory right.

We have been looking after the issue of these patents since that time, now nearly five years. Upon one pretext and another, surveys have been postponed, although we understand that some clear-cut plans are on foot for the survey this year.

We wish to enter most emphatic protest against this long delay occasioning, as it has, great inconvenience and annoyance to us in the conduct of our business.

May we not ask that by such influences as you may be able to bring to bear upon the Interior Department, and the General Land Office, the survey of these lands, and the issue of these patents be facilitated, and if at all possible, be issued within the next few months.

Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, 2.

So far as the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church is concerned, we have complied with the law in every respect, have filed copies and plats of our claims in the General Land Office at Washington, in the Land Office at Sitka, and we see no reason for this long delayed and, we feel, very dilatory tactics.

May we not ask your very energetic endeavors to the end that these matters may be promptly attended to?

Thanking you, sir, for your kindly help in this matter, I am

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

UNITED STATES SENATE.
WASHINGTON.

At 49 Broadway,

New York, May 6, 1905.

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Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Board of Home Missions ,

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.,

156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your communication of May 5th, in reference to certain allotment of lands in South Eastern Alaska and elsewhere for the use of the agencies of your Board which are being held by possessory right, pending the issuance of patents, and note your protest against the delay in the issuance of said patents. I should be pleased to take the matter up with the Secretary of the Interior at once.

Very truly yours,

J. T. Platt

Hm

Copy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office,
Washington, D.C.,

May 16, 1905.

The Honorable,

Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

May 9, 1905, you transmitted to this office a letter from Hon. T. C. Platt "for early report, in duplicate, and return of papers", which letter from the Senator enclosed one addressed to him by H. C. Olin, Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, in which it is stated that there are several Missions doing school work, established by said Board, in Alaska, at considerable expenses, that there have been set apart, at various Mission stations, lands for the use of the agencies of this Board, the Board holding the same by possessory right, pending the issuance of patents; that under the law passed in June, 1900, "the Interior Department was directed to have the lands surveyed and to issue patents to the various denominational agencies, which have been holding them by possessory right."

It is further stated in said Treasurer's letter that they have been looking to the issuance of patents since the passage of said law, now nearly five years, but, upon one pretext and another, surveys have been postponed; and that, "We wish to enter most emphatic protest against this long delay, occasioning, as it has, great inconvenience and annoyance to us in the conduct of our business." He therefore asks

that the issuance of these patents be facilitated, and, if possible, that the same be issued within the next few months.

No particular Mission claim is described, and I am therefore unable to report the status of the land covered by the Presbyterian Church Missions in Alaska.

Contracts have been made for the establishment of base and meridian lines in the District of Alaska, but no township surveys have, as yet, been made therein.

The only method by which the lands covered by the Mission claims can now be surveyed, so as to obtain a description upon which a patent can issue, under the Act of June 6, 1900 (31 Stats., 330) Section 27, is under the regulations found in the District of Alaska circular, on page 27, a copy of which is herewith submitted. Under these regulations, the religious societies holding Mission claims in Alaska must apply to the Surveyor General for the survey of the land occupied as a Mission claim, and therewith should be filed the proof, as required in said regulations.

I gather from the letter from said Treasurer that the Board of Missions have misunderstood said section 27, and have presumed that, immediately upon the passage of said Act, the Department would at once proceed to survey all of those Mission claims, and, upon such surveys, issue patents for the same, without any further action being taken by the several Mission Boards.

I herewith return said letters, with this report in duplicate.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) W. A. RICHARDS,
Commissioner.

(C o p y)

Department of the Interior,
Washington, May 18, 1905.

Hon. Chauncey M. Depew,
Grand Central Depot,
New York City.

Sir:-

In further reply to your communication of the 10th instant enclosing a letter addressed to yourself by Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, relative to the patenting to said Board of certain lands in Alaska, I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a report by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under date of May 16, 1905, on a letter from Senator Platt enclosing a similar letter from Mr. Olin.

The letter of your correspondent is herewith returned together with a copy of the circular referred to in the Commissioner's report.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) E. A. Hitchcock,

Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

At 49 Broadway,

New York, May 20, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions,

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:

Further replying to your letter of May 5th, concerning certain lands, particularly in South Eastern Alaska, held by your Board by possessory right, I invite your attention to the attached copy of a report made to the Secretary of the Interior by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, together with a circular touching the case.

Very truly yours,



Hm

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Grand Central Depot,

New York, May 22, 1905.

H. C. Olin, Esq., Treasurer,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Sir -

I enclose a report just received from the Secretary of the Interior, in the matter covered by your letter of May 5th. Kindly return the correspondence when you are through with it.

Yours very truly,

Samuel Joseph

F.F.

May 29th, 1905.

Hon. T. C. Platt,

U. S. Senator,

49 Broadway, City.

Sir:-

Your kind favor of the 20th inst., in reply to our communication dated May 5th, with regard to the survey of certain mission lands in South-eastern Alaska, and the issue of patents covering the same, with enclosures, is duly at hand. I beg, in the first place, to thank you for your prompt and kindly action in the matter.

Referring to Commissioner Richards' letter, let me say, with reference to paragraphs 4 and 5 on page 2, that the Commissioner evidently did not carefully read the latter from this Office. That letter reads: "So far as the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church is concerned, we have complied with the law in every respect, have filed copies and plats of our claims in the General Land Office at Washington, and in the Land Office at Sitka." We have not therefore, as you will see, misunderstood the said section 27 referred to. We have had the law under consideration, have, after correspondence with the Land Office at Washington and at Sitka, proceeded in the filing of our claims exactly as directed, and have, as has been said, complied fully with the law. The surveys and plats covering the lands at specific points were duly filed some years since.

We have, as I have said, taken all the necessary steps as outlined to us by the Department, and again must re-iterate that we do not see why this matter has not been more promptly and expeditiously attended to. Further pressure from your office I am sure will be of service in hastening these matters.

With renewed thanks for your help,

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dictated.

Grand Central Depot,

New York, May 31, 1905.

Harvey C. Olin, Esq., Treasurer,

Board of Home Missions Presbyterian Church,

156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Sir -

I am in receipt of your letter of May 29th, and shall again take up with the Secretary of the Interior the matter of patents covering mission lands in Alaska.

Yours very truly,

Samuel H. Davenport

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

At 49 Broadway,

New York, May 31, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of May 29,
and in the light of the statements therein con-
tained concerning the respects in which your
Board has complied with the law in the filing of
copies of your claims in the General Land offices,
I will communicate further with the Secretary of
the Interior in the matter.

Very truly yours,

J. C. Platt

F.F.

June 1st, 1905.

Hon. T. C. Platt,

49 Broadway, City.

Dear Sir:-

Your valued favor of the 31st ult., in reply to ours of the 29th, with further regard to the survey and issue of patents covering mission lands in Alaska, is at hand. We thank you very much for your further endeavor in this matter, and trust that it may be effective.

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.



At 49 Broadway,

New York, June 5, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, dated June 3, acknowledging receipt of mine of recent date in further reference to the matter regarding which you have written me, in which he states that my communication has been referred to the commissioner of the General Land Office for early report, upon receipt of which I will be further advised.

Very truly yours,

Hv

(C o p y)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office,

Washington, D.C., June 9, 1905.

Subject: Report in Duplicate as to Status of
Mission Surveys, Alaska.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, for early report and return of papers, of the letter of Hon. T. C. Platt, enclosing his letter from Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions at New York, dated May 29, 1905, in which the letter writer urges prompt issue of patents to his Board, to the lands held by mission schools under its control in Alaska.

Mr. Olin states as follows:

"So far as the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church is concerned, we have complied with the law in every respect, have filed copies and plats of our claims in the General Land Office at Washington, and in the Land Office at Sitka. The surveys and plats covering the lands at specific points were duly filed some years since.

We have, as I have said, taken all the necessary steps as outlined to us by the Department and again must re-iterate that we do not see why this matter has not been more promptly and expeditiously attended to".

The letter of Senator Platt asks the attention of the Department to the subject with the view, if possible, of closing the matter.

In reply, I have the honor to report as follows:

1 - No official surveys of the said mission tracts are known to this office as having been made, although contracts have recently been awarded for that purpose.

2 - The documents alluded to by Mr. Olin as having been filed at this office, were applications to have an official survey made by the Government, said applications being illustrated by rough plats or diagrams prepared by private surveyors.

3 - This office has used its utmost diligence in the effort to provide for the general survey of all the mission lands in Alaska, and the work is now progressing under numerous contracts with deputy surveyors.

4 - The law authorizing said surveys, (31 Stats.530), directed the Secretary of the Interior "to have such lands surveyed" for the mission people; but that did not authorize this office to file and accept as final surveys the crude diagrams presented with applications for an official survey.

5 - Therefore there are no plats and field notes yet on file which this office could with propriety use as the basis of patents, and the work could not have proceeded much more promptly and expeditiously than has thus far been done.

In further explanation of the situation, I beg to state that after the passage of said act, by letter "E" dated Feb. 19, 1901, this office gave to the U. S. surveyor general for Alaska general and specific instructions as to the execution of that class of surveys; and said instructions received

the formal approval of the Department.

Under said instructions, applications were to be solicited and filed from the various mission interests; and among over 150 tracts of land thus applied for, fourteen tracts were claimed by said Board.

This office meanwhile presented an estimate for an extra appropriation of \$50,000, to meet the expenses of survey, and formulated plans for conducting the work with system, and economy of time and travel.

After the Congress had given the appropriation, immediate steps were taken to put all the work under contract, by due advertisement for proposals. The last two groups of the twelve groups of mission tracts were recently presented to the Department for authorization, and the contracts are not yet approved. It is believed that under the ten other contracts work is now in progress.

Letters from this office to Mr. E. C. Olin and other officials of said Board, at various dates in 1902 and 1903, explained the purpose and method adopted by this office. An urgent plea was made that they might be allowed to pay the extra portion of the cost of an immediate survey beyond what it would be in regular course; and by letter "E" of Feb. 8, 1902, Mr. Olin was advised that the proposition was impracticable and not agreeable to the rules of the Treasury Department; also saying:

"The intended donation of public lands being a gratuity to the various organizations, as well as the entire necessary cost of their survey, it remains the duty of this office to provide for said extensive duty of survey with due regard to economy of time and expenditure, as well as to thoroughness and permanency of boundaries".

Subsequently, in the full understanding of the case/ Mr. Olin addressed a letter to this office dated Jan. 28, 1903, in regard to the mission tract at Haines, enclosing a plat or diagram on tracing paper as an illustration. His letter closed thus:

"Please consider this as a formal application to the General Land Office for a survey of the 232 acres in the name of this Board, and further, let me request that just as soon as possible a patent be issued covering the same".

Mr. S. E. Young at Skagway, agent of said Board, also filed with the surveyor general a formal "Application for Survey and Patent" for said Haines tract, with a diagram thereof; and the same was duly forwarded to this office, Feb. 10, 1903.

Other mission authorities have filed applications for survey, with and without diagrams, and all have received uniform consideration.

Said applications have received due attention, the contracts have been awarded for the field work, and returns will in due course be received by the U. S. Surveyor General At Sitka. This office regrets that Mr. Olin now conceives that a sufficient and acceptable survey has long been on file, and that this office has been negligent of his interests.

It is believed, however, that this explanation of the situation will be sufficient to relieve his mind of the misconception of the necessary requirements for the issuance of a

patent.

For definite information as to the several tracts for the survey of which application has been made by said Board, a tabular statement is here appended.

Location	In Group	Embraced in Cont.	Deputy	Approved
Sitka 2	No.1	No.11	C. E. Davidson	June 18, '04
Wrangell)	" 2	" 8	C. S. Hubbell	" " "
Saxman)				
Howkan)				
Haines)	" 3	" 9	Elias Ruud	" 25 "
Hoonah)				
Eagle	" 11	" 10	C. E. Davidson	" 18 "
<u>Reindeer Stations</u>				
Nome)	" 10	Contract in preparation in Alaska.		
Eaton)				
Teller)				
Rodney)				
Gambell)	" 12	" "	" "	" "
Pt. Barrow)				

The time for executing above contracts expires Dec. 31, 1905. It was attempted to provide for the execution of 12 mission contracts at the same time; but in three cases the deputy to whom work was assigned failed to comply with the terms, and delay was caused by the necessity of issuing new proposals for bids.

The surveyor general has now been asked to report to this office as to the progress being made in these surveys.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) J. H. Fimple,

Acting Commissioner.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON.

At 49 Broadway,

New York, June 12, 1905.

Mr. H. C. Olin,

Treasurer, Board of Home Missions,

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.,

156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring further to the matter of the survey of certain mission lands in South Eastern Alaska and the issuance of patents covering the same, I enclose another report just received from the Secretary of the Interior, relating to this subject, which I shall thank you to return to me after perusal.

Very truly yours,



M

F.F.

June 22nd, 1905.

Hon. Thomas C. Platt,
49 Broadway, City.

My dear Sir:-

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your valued favor of the 12th inst., with which was forwarded to this office for our reading a report from the Hon. the Secretary of the Interior, dated June 9th, 1905, both with reference to previous communications from this office upon the general subject of surveys and the issue of patents for mission lands in South-eastern Alaska.

Relative to the above, permit me to say that the Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, Mr. Fimple, certainly fails to apprehend the point of the letters from this office of recent date. We have not held, at any time, that the surveys and plats filed by this office with the General Land Office, and with the District Land Offices at Sitka, were sufficient basis upon which the Government might issue patents, we have simply claimed that we have complied with the law in making formal application, accompanied by notes and plats, and with such un-official (so-called) surveys as we have been able to secure. What we do protest against is the unnecessarily long time which the Land Office has taken to survey and patent these properties. It would seem as if, in the ordinary course of business, a year was sufficient to perform this sort of service. Certainly a private business establishment would do business of that nature in that time. Why the Government should take four or five years to do what a private corporation would do within one year, is hardly conceivable.

We acknowledge to have received from the Land Office replies to urgent inquiries during the years from 1902 to 1904, but for all our urging, the Department has not facilitated matters in any way whatever.

As you will see on page three of Mr. Fimple's letter, we were so anxious to have these lands surveyed and patented, that in 1902 we offered, if immediate survey were made, to bear any extra expense beyond what it would cost in regular course. That, for some unaccountable reason,

Hon. T. C. P., ~~February 2~~ 2.

was declined by the Department.

In closing, I must repeat that this business has been handled in a very dilatory manner. Who is to blame we do not know, we can only guess, but it would seem to us that it is a fit subject for careful investigation by Senators and Representatives whose constituents are thus delayed and hampered in the carrying on of work which admittedly is for the uplift and betterment of the inhabitants of that part of our country. Certainly the hundreds of thousands of dollars expended by this Board alone in its work in South-eastern Alaska, if no other consideration were to be taken into account, would justify our urgency in the matter.

Thanking you, Sir, for your kindly and prompt attention to these matters, and begging that you will use still further endeavors to facilitate these surveys and patents, I am

Respectfully yours,

Treasurer.

P.S.-- I return herewith, as requested, the letter of Acting Commissioner Fimple.

(Enclosure)

Mr Pres. Horn
Mission Board.
New York City —
Gallatin ! —

I invite your attention to
the provisions of the Act of Congress
approved March 3, 1905 (Public No 212)
especially Sec 9, pages 37 & 38, in
reference to reservation of Public land for
religious purposes —

It seems to me the church
ought to secure a number of lots of
good land in the Indian Territory also.
before it is too late —

Very Truly Yours
J. J. Saunders
The Brunswick R

Washington D.C.

(C o p y)

104215-1905

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Washington, D.C.

July 7, 1905.

Subject: Complaint of Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer Board of Home Missions.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, for early report and return of papers, of Senator T. C. Platt's note of June 24, 1905, enclosing, for such consideration as the Department may see fit to give it, a letter dated June 22, 1905 from Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, in answer to office letter "E" of June 9, 1905 to the Department, setting forth the difficulties in the way of prompt execution of the work of surveying the Mission claims in Alaska.

Mr. Olin does not seem to appreciate the nature of the work and the obstacles to be encountered and continues to complain of the delay in securing the desired surveys.

I have the honor to report that contracts have been let for these surveys in due course of business and the work is proceeding with all despatch consistent with the extraordinary difficulties to be found in that district. The time limit for the completion of the survey is fixed in the contract at December 31, 1905.

The ordinary procedure has been followed in these cases as in all surveys of public lands and private claims, and is as follows:

The surveyor general is authorized to submit to this office an estimate of the cost of making the surveys and group the claims so as to facilitate proposals.

After this is done and submitted to me this office asks of the Secretary of the Interior authority to direct the surveyor general to invite proposals for the surveys group by group. The surveyor general then advertises the work and sends invitations to surveyors, and bids are opened and classified by him and transmitted to this office with his recommendation as to each group.

In these Mission Station surveys the orderly procedure at this point was set aside to allow an inspector of this office to proceed to Alaska and investigate the conditions there. There was a delay of one season to accomplish this and secure information upon which to base intelligent action as to awarding contracts for these extensive and important surveys.

This office, as soon as bids are received from the surveyor general, examines the same and verifies the findings of the surveyor general. It may or may not approve them. It forwards the entire papers to the Secretary of the Interior and makes a recommendation. The department approves or disapproves as the case may be, and upon receipt of approval this office advises the surveyor general to enter into contract with the successful bidders. The surveyors are then obliged to secure bondsmen and execute contracts in quadruplicate. Special instructions have to be issued specifying the tract or tracts to be surveyed. The contracts are forwarded to this office and critically examined. If found correct they are approved and upon receipt of advice of approval the surveyor general notifies the deputy that he can take the field. Nothing is heard from the deputy further until he executes the field work and files his notes in the surveyor general's office, whereupon the latter notifies this office that the surveys are ready for field inspection. An examiner of surveys is assigned to the duty of ascertaining if the deputy's work be correctly done, and makes his report direct to ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ this office. (Formerly all surveys were accepted on the oath of the deputy. In recent years rigid inspection is enforced). The field notes and plats of the surveys are then prepared in the office of the surveyor general by his force of draftsmen and forwarded to Washington. The case is then taken up in its turn by this office force here and passed upon. If found correctly executed the surveys are accepted and the surveyor general notified to file the plat, and the land is then ready for disposition.

Usually a survey is executed in our surveying season, reported ready for examination at the end of the same season, (generally too late for the inspector to be on the ground,) examined in the next season and acted upon the following winter in this office. Owing to the remoteness of the Alaska region, the scarcity of competent surveyors, the almost inaccessible character of the points where the Mission Stations were located necessitating many changes and readjustments in the various contracts, the length of time required to properly survey out the Mission Station has been unavoidably prolonged.

This office believes that Mr. Clin is under the impression that a surveyor could be dispatched from this office, under orders, to make a survey of the Presbyterian Mission Stations in one season, but under existing rules and regulations this can not be done except in extraordinary cases when the usual procedure can not be followed.

The contractors for the surveys of all the Mission Stations are now in the field and are supposed to be using expedition in order to finish this season.

The list of contracts and names of deputies with the work they have to do is given below.

Frank F. Lasey, D. S.; liability \$1250.00.

All the lines necessary to embrace the following Mission reserves, to wit: Swedish Evangelical Mission at Yakutat, Alaska, 1 tract. Greek Church Mission at Kutchek, Alaska, 1 tract. Greek Church Mission at Odiak, Alaska, 1 tract. Greek Church Mission at Tatlitak, Alaska, 1 tract. Greek Church Mission at Kanikluk, Alaska, 1 tract. Greek Church Mission at Chariga, Alaska, 1 tract

Frank H. Lasey, D. S.; liability \$3600.00.

All the lines necessary to embrace the following Mission reserves in Alaska, to wit: Russian Greek Church Mission at St. Paul Harbor, 9 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Wood Island, 2 tracts; Baptist Mission at Wood Island, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Spruce Island, 3 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Eagle Harbor, Kodiak Island, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Three Saints, Kodiak Island, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Arklatik, Kodiak Island, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Pokrofsky, Kodiak Island, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Akeek, Kodiak Island, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Karluk, Kodiak Island, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Origashak, Kodiak Island, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission on the Island and in the Village of Afognak, 5 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission on the Island and in the village of Douglas, Shelikof Strait, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission in the village of Katmai, Shelikof Strait, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission, Kanatak Bay, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission in the Village of Wild Bay, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission in the Village of Wrangell, (west of Kodiak).

Charles S. Hubbell, D. S.; liability \$1120.

All the lines necessary to embrace the following designated Mission Reserves in Alaska, to wit:- Roman Catholic Mission at Wrangell, 1 tract; Presbyterian Mission at Wrangell, 1 tract; Presbyterian Mission at Saxman, 1 tract; Presbyterian Mission at Fowkan (Jackson), 1 tract; Quaker Mission at Eke, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Ketchikan, 1 tract;

Elias Ruud, D. S.; liability \$1275.00.

All the lines necessary to embrace the following designated Mission Reserves in Alaska, to-wit:-- Russian Greek Church Mission at Juneau, 2 tracts; Roman Catholic Mission at Juneau, 3 tracts; Roman Catholic Mission at Douglas Island, 3 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Douglas Island, 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at Skagway, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Skagway, 2 tracts; Presbyterian Mission at Haines, 1 tract; Presbyterian Mission at Noonah, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Noonah, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church at Killisnoo, 2 tracts.

Charles E. Davidson, D. S., liability \$1375.00

All the lines necessary to embrace the following designated Mission reserves at Sitka, Alaska, to wit-- Russian Greek Church Mission, 20 tracts; Presbyterian Mission, 2 tracts; Roman Catholic Mission, 1 tract.

Albert Lacey, D. S.; liability \$2870.00.

All the lines necessary to embrace the following designated Mission Reserves in Alaska, to-wit:-- Russian Greek Church Mission at Kenai, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Minilchik, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Seldovia, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Alexandrovok, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Shushitna, 3 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Eriq, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Kustatsu, 3 tracts.

Charles E. Davidson, D. S., liability, \$4150.00

All the lines necessary to embrace the following designated Mission Reserves in Alaska, to wit:-- Roman Catholic Mission at Eagle City, 2 tracts; Presbyterian Mission at Eagle City, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Auvik, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at mouth of Tanana River, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Rampart, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at mouth of Minook River, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Fort Yukon, 1 tract; Protestant Episcopal Mission at Circle City, 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at Mulato, Yukon River (St. Peter Cloyer Mission), 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at Kosenfski or Holy Cross, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Ikognent, 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at Shayeluk, 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at St. Joseph of Akulavak, 1 tract.

Webster Brown, D. S., liability \$6090.00

All the lines necessary to embrace the following described Mission Reserves in Alaska, to wit: Russian Greek Church Mission at Mushagak, 6 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission on the bank of the Mushagak River, 1 tract; Russian Greek Church Mission at Bluk, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Poguvik, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Ugashak, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Koggiung, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Olianna, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Kasha-rak, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church Mission at Severskoo, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church at Koichak, 2 tracts; Russian Greek Church

Mission at Kuskokivin, 2 tracts; Roman Catholic Mission at Okuagamut, 1 tract; Moravian Mission at Carnel, 1 tract; Moravian Mission at Bethel, 1 tract; Moravian Mission at Ogavik, 1 tract; Moravian Mission at Togiak, 1 tract; Moravian Mission at Quinchaha, 1 tract; Roman Catholic Mission at Cape Vancouver, Nelson Island, 1 tract.

The magnitude of the work will be observed, the contracts amounting to \$21,830.

In awarding these contracts it was found necessary to use the highest rates allowed by law as no surveyors could be found willing to undertake the surveys for less. Delays were caused by some of the contractors declining to do the work at any price. One large group of surveys had to be re-advertized because the deputy demanded a revenue cutter to transport him from one station to another. Reliable surveyors could not be found at first in sufficient numbers to cover the entire work, so that some delay was caused in this way.

It is the intention of this office to secure the best surveys obtainable, and to this end it has used every effort to safeguard the work, so that when future surveys under the rectangular system close on these mission boundaries, they will be found to be properly surveyed and monumented.

The proposition of the Presbyterian Board to pay for the surveys of their mission stations in order to have the surveys made at once, could not of course under the rules be entertained and if such surveys were made under the deposit system the same procedure as to their execution would have been followed.

This office has not neglected to urge forward all Alaskan surveys, and has made concessions to Alaskan surveyors in the case of these mission surveys for this purpose, and I regret that Mr. Olin, owing to his misconception of the situation, entertains the idea that this office has not used proper diligence in this direction. If surveys under the Government are hurried to completion without a due regard to their correct execution, it is greatly to the detriment of the interests of those who subsequently acquire title to the surveyed tracts.

Holding these views as to my responsibility for the present and future condition of survey work upon the public domain, I am unable to recommend any more speedy method of securing a "survey and patent of these properties" than is at present being employed. It may be well to state that no other church organization has made complaints of delay in the surveys, nor am I aware that any obstacle or hindrance to the mission work has in any manner been caused by it.

I return herewith the papers as requested.

Very respectfully,
(signed) W.A. Richards, Commissioner.

(C o p y)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON.

July 10, 1905.

Hon. T. C. Platt,

49 Broadway, New York.

Sir:

In a letter of the 24th ultimo to the Department you enclosed one to yourself from Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, in which he has complained of the delay in the survey and patenting of Mission lands in the District of Alaska.

The correspondence was referred to the Commissioner of the General Land Office and on the 7th instant the Commissioner submitted a report thereon, a copy of which I enclose for your full information in the premises.

Your correspondent has stated that "what we do protest against is the unnecessarily long time which the land office is taking to survey and patent these properties". You will learn from the report that no unnecessary time has been consumed in this work, and that the usual and proper procedure is being followed with a view to the ultimate patenting of the lands.

I fully concur in the report of the Commissioner and return herewith the letter of your correspondent.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) F. L. Campbell,

Acting Secretary.

F.F.

July 13th, 1905.

Hon. The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

By ~~the~~ a letter dated June 23rd, 1905, "The National Indian Association" transfers to this Board, namely, "Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America" all its rights and privileges in and to the temporary use and occupancy of the four (4) acres, more or less, known as the "Allan property" near Tuba, Ariz., with all improvements thereon, and with the pipe line conveying water from the spring named in the correspondence with the Indian Office regarding same, the property so transferred being more properly described as follows:

"Beginning at or near the South east corner of the S.E./4 of the NE/4, Section 31, Township 32 N., Range 11 E.G. & S.R. Meridian, thence 8 chains West; thence South five chains to place of beginning, containing four acres more or less".

From the plat transmitted the tract of land is shown to be the S/2 of the SE/4 of the SE/4 of the NE/4 of the said section, township and range, and the building or missionary home is located on the SE/4 of the SE/4 of the SE/4 of the SE/4 of the NE/4.

The pipe line to the spring, by which the missionary home is furnished a sufficient water supply, is shown by the rough sketch to run northwardly between two high bluffs, and to cross in a north-easterly direction the boundary line of the NE/4 of the NE/4 of the said section, township and range, from which point of crossing it runs northeasterly about ten chains to the spring."

Mrs. Quintan informs us that she has written your office, requesting that a transfer of occupancy or possessory rights to this Board be made, and that we be accepted upon the same footing as was the National Indian Association when this property was placed at their disposal.

For the information of your department, I pass you herewith a copy of the letter from Mrs. Quintan, President of

Secretary of the Interior, 2.

the National Indian Association, covering the transfer. May we ask that specific authority be granted by your office for the taking possession of this property; that instructions be sent to your Agent Murphy at the Reservation, giving him notice of the said transfer, and that, if possible, a plat of this property, together with the pipe line to the spring, be furnished by your office.

Thanking you on behalf of this Board, and in advance, for compliance with our request, and begging as early a response as may be possible, I am

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

F.F.

July 14th, 1905.

Hon. T. C. Platt,

45 Broadway, City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 12th inst., enclosing various letters from the Department of the Interior in reply to our recent letter with regard to the surveys, etc., in South-eastern Alaska, is at hand and has had the appreciative reading of the officers of this Board. I have retained copies of these letters for our files and a little later we may desire to take the matter up again through yourself.

Permit me, on behalf of the Board, to say how thoroughly your prompt handling of this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

